

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in reply to the non-final Office Action mailed on January 12, 2007. A petition for a one month extension of time is submitted herewith. The Director is authorized to charge \$120 for the Petition for the one month extension and any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-1818. If such a withdrawal is made, please indicate the Attorney Docket No. 112701-446 on the account statement.

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application. In the Office Action, the drawings are objected to, Claims 1-10 and 13-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 and Claims 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. In response Claims 1 and 17-18 have been amended and Claims 5 and 10 have been canceled. This amendment does not add new matter. In view of the amendment and/or for the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections should be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 17-18 have been amended for clarification purposes. The amendments are supported in the specification, for example, at page 9 lines 16-36 and Figure 1.

In the Office Action, the drawings are objected to as allegedly not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Patent Office alleges that the spring and wire brush must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claims. In response, Applicants have canceled Claims 5 and 10 thereby rendering this objection moot.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-10 and 13-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,459,854 to Yoakim et al. ("*Yoakim*"). Applicants believe this rejection is improper and respectfully traverse it for at least the reasons set forth below.

Applicants respectfully submit that the presently pending claims include elements that are not disclosed or suggested by *Yoakim*. For example, *Yoakim* fails to disclose or suggest at least one individual and at least one second set of at least two resistors that are electrically linked together so as to use the first resistor of a second set individually or in serial with one or more of the following resistors of the same set as required, in part by Claims 1 and 17-18. For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 17-18

and Claims 2-10, 13-16 and 19-25 that depend from these claims are novel, nonobvious and distinguishable from the cited reference.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1-10 and 13-25 under 35 U.S.C. §102 be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, Claims 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yoakim*. Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, Application Serial Number 10/521,029, and *Yoakim* were, at the time the invention of Application Serial Number 10/521,029 was made, owned by Nestec S.A. or subject to an obligation of assignment that would establish common ownership by Nestec S.A. Therefore, in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §103/§102(e), Applicants respectfully submit that *Yoakim* should be removed as a reference, and that this rejection should be withdrawn.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified patent application and earnestly solicit an early allowance of same.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 

Robert M. Barrett
Reg. No. 30,142
Customer No. 29157

Dated: April 26, 2007